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Norfolk woman seeks Board of Regents spot to cut university costs

By Chris Hodges

Margaret Robinson, 58, of Norfolk, wants to be the first female regent on the NU Board of Regents. Robinson announced her candidacy Thursday afternoon at the State Capitol for District 3 regent. Kermit Wagner of Schuyler currently represents District 3.

Robinson will run against J.D. Schiermeyer, a banker from Fremont, and Don Dworak, a Nebraska state senator from Columbus.

Robinson wants to cut the cost of operating the university. The university spends too much money on administration in comparison to what it spends on academics, Robinson said.

"The university's proposed 1982-83 budget calls for spending almost the same amount for administration, \$21.1 million, as for academic support, \$22.2 million," she said. "That's outrageous."

Robinson, president of Norfolk Iron and Metal Company, says her background in business will help her succeed in reducing university costs.

As the first female regent, Robinson said she would be very interested in knowing what female students want from their university.

"I have three daughters that are in careers," she said. "One is a doctor, one has a Ph.D. in medical microbiology and one is a geologist. I do want to know about the issues that affect women students."

Robinson said she also wants more feedback from all of the residents of Nebraska.

"A lot of the people in the state of Nebraska feel very removed from the university," she said. "They shouldn't feel that way because they are paying for it. I am presently conducting a poll in my district to see how people feel about the university."

Approximately 500 people were contacted for the poll, Robinson said. They have been asked whether they are pleased with the way the university is operated and how important they think the university is to the state.

As a member of the Norfolk Board of Education, Robinson says the university and all other schools face serious problems for at least the next five years.

"All school districts will have to hire fewer teachers than in the past," she said. "The university should stop preparing so many people for teaching positions, especially elementary education. The positions aren't going to be there."

"It's important to devote some time and study to these problems," she said.

Board drafts student insurance policy

By Vicki Ruhga

The rough draft of next year's UNL student insurance policy was discussed Wednesday at the University Health Center Advisory Board meeting.

Board Chairman Mike Grier said one approved change was to eventually incorporate the insurance policy with student registration forms so students would not have to go through an insurance company to get a policy.

"We also feel that allowing Visa and Mastercard as payment options will make the policy more accessible to students," Grier said. The charging option of the rough draft was also approved.

The board also decided to continue handling insurance claims locally.

Marsh announces bid for treasurer position

Sen. Shirley Marsh of Lincoln Thursday announced her candidacy for the Republican nomination for State Treasurer.

Marsh cited her 10 years of experience on the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee as one of her qualifications for the job.

"My public service has been intended to amplify the voices of those Nebraskans whose complaints went unnoticed or unheard," Marsh said in a press release.

Marsh's husband, Frank, served two terms as state treasurer before being appointed last year to chair the Nebraska Farmers Home Administration. First elected in 1952, he has also served as secretary of state and lieutenant governor.

Marsh will face Kay Orr, who was appointed by Gov. Charles Thone last summer to fill the treasurer position, in the May primary.



Photo by D. Eric Kircher

A cleanup crew loads rubble from the demolished Cornhusker Hotel into trucks. The spray of water helps keep the dust down.

Professor says black situation worsens because black people, students too quiet

By Ward W. Triplett III

Dr. Alvin Poussaint, speaking as part of UNL's black history month celebration, told a racially mixed audience Thursday night in the Nebraska Union that black people and students have been too quiet about political issues, and consequently the situation for blacks in America has worsened.

Poussaint, an associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and a member of the board of directors of Operation PUSH, (People United to Save Humanity), spoke before a crowd of 200 people in the Nebraska Union Ballroom. Poussaint's speech ranged from blasting the policies of the Reagan administration, to

questioning the role of blacks in their own interrelationship.

"I don't think Reagan will be able to turn back the clock as he says," Poussaint said.

"It gave me a chill when I saw the president of the United States grant tax exemptions to private segregated schools that openly practiced racial discrimination. That meant that my tax dollars and your tax dollars are being spent on schools that are violating the law of the land," Poussaint said.

Poussaint said that action signaled to bigots across the country that it was OK to come out. He said the Reagan administration was a government committed to "rich folk, and not one act of the administration has favored poorer people."

"A vote for Reagan was also a vote against affirmative action," Poussaint said. "The complaint was that black people were getting the jobs normally left to whites."

"However, that cannot be since unemployment rates for blacks have risen in the past 10 years, and the unemployment rate for black teenagers is 45 percent," Poussaint said.

"But we're still silent. Black students should be in the forefront of screaming like hell against the cutback of guaranteed student loans, because they are going to be disproportionately affected. If the cuts go through as they are now, very few blacks will be able to attend professional or graduate school," he said.

He also attacked the United States policy in El Salvador and South Africa, saying it should tell black Americans something when our government "gets cozy" with a government like South Africa's, which imposes apartheid as a law.

"If you think this is a democracy, go to your job and admit you are a socialist. I will follow you up in 10 years and see what happened to you," Poussaint said.

"They have got us afraid. We don't understand it when the French people and Greece vote in a socialist government. They have us convinced communism and socialism always mean totalitarianism, which is not true," Poussaint said, referring to the teaching to blacks that the capitalist system is the only way of government.

"They can get away with that because blacks do not get together to discuss political issues. It used to be against the law. They would let us get together to worship, or sing and dance. Today, we are still doing that."

"Lerone Bennett will come and speak on a campus and 50 black students will show up. If you throw a party, thousands of people will show up. White people will look at that and say, 'these people are no threat to me.' As long as that is where our priorities are, and we do not get together on issues, we never will be," Poussaint said.

"We have a lot of work to do and no one has any magical answers. But doing nothing is not an answer. To struggle is good for your mental health and it is better than to suffer quietly."